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Academic Senate Minutes

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Spring 5-9-2012

Senate Meeting, May 9, 2012

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Academic Senate Minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
(Approved)

Call to Order by Student Body President

The meeting was called to order by Senate Vice Chairperson Andy Manno.

Seating of the New Senate

The names of the newly elected senators were called to seat the new Senate.

Roll Call by Student Body President

Senate Vice Chairperson Andy Manno called the roll and declared a quorum.

Election of Academic Senate Chairperson

Senator Dan Holland was unanimously elected by the Senate as the Academic Senate Chairperson.

Election of Academic Senate Secretary

Senator Susan Kalter was unanimously elected by the Senate as the Academic Senate Secretary.

Election of Executive Committee Faculty Members

The following Senate faculty members were unanimously elected to serve on the Executive Committee:

Farzaneh Fazel, COB Faculty

Martha Horst, CFA Faculty

Mike Gizzi, CAS Faculty

Ed Stewart, CFA Faculty

Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2012

Motion XXXXIII-71: By Sen. Stewart, seconded by Sen. Rich, to approve the Academic Senate Minutes of April 25, 2012. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation: Foundation Board Report (Prof. Joe Armstrong and Erin Minné, VP for University Advancement)

VP Minné: The Foundation is an independent organization that is interdependent with the university and we are here only to serve the university. The body of the Foundation is charged with receiving gifts that are made, holding on to those gifts and managing them well and dispersing them out as appropriate to the university. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that exists between the Board of Trustees and the ISU Foundation. The Foundation is charged with managing the alumni data base. We own the Ewing Cultural Center. The Foundation formed a limited liability corporation and bought the Alumni Center building. It is leased to the university. Under that arrangement, the university was not required to carry this on their books. The Foundation also pays the lease on a Chicago office.

The endowed funds are the long term investments that we make where the principle is not touched, but there is a spendable income for the various units throughout the year based on where the donor identified the gift to go. There was a significant impact over time in terms of the endowed funds. We saw a significant dip as a result of the market in '08, but we are coming back up. For FY11 we accrued \$13.5 million.

We have some great Foundation corporate partners. These are managed by the not-for-profit Common Fund. It does a lot of institutional management of endowments.

Sen. Weeks: Are the corporate donors local?

Dr. Minné: We have a long-time partnership with State Farm. Country is also a terrific partner. We have many that are local, but at the same time those are national and international companies. We have a great relationship with Caterpillar because they hire students here. The reason that so many people are inspired to give is because of great stable leadership. What all of you are doing now is what has the greatest impact on our ability to raise money.

President Bowman: I would like to complement Erin and her staff for the strong performance we have had in fundraising.

Presentation: Academic Plan (Associate Provost Jan Murphy)

Associate Provost Jan Murphy: The Academic Plan is a product of the Academic Planning Committee. It is an External Committee of the Senate. It is external to the Academic Affairs Committee. There is a faculty representative from each college. The Chair of the Senate on the committee serves on it, as well as a member of the Academic Affairs Committee. I serve as the administrative organizer of that committee. This year because of the volume of programs going up for review, we actually formed two committees. We also have students that serve on the committees. It is a tough service for students so typically we don't ask them to read everything that comes before them.

Bruce Stoffel in the Provost's Office helps to coordinate the Academic Planning Committee and put together the Academic Plan. The Academic Plan looks a little different this year because Bruce came in with some new ideas.

Section 2 on page 18 are the Academic Plan initiatives, we tried to pull together those initiatives and show you where in the process they are rather than showing what we may do in the next four to five years. We tried to give you a sense of what is new and what is coming down the road pretty quickly.

In Section 3, page 21, is where we start the unit plans and objectives. In the past, we have just put college objectives. Bruce thought we ought to put strategic plans.

In the last section is all of the program reviews. Program reviews are a very thorough self-analysis that are done by each degree program on campus. They're mandated by the State of Illinois. In Illinois, our process is done on a cycle of eight years. We identify the strengths of the program, identifying areas for improvement. We come up with a summary and recommendations. All of the programs we looked at this year are in good standing. The IBHE requires us to say the program is in good standing or we flag it to them for further analysis, or we would suspend enrollment. In all my years, we have never used a program review to suspend enrollment. There are some programs where we need a little follow-up. We say here is something that is a little bit of an issue and we would like you to address that and write a report in a year or two.

The next step is to the Board of Trustees at the July meeting if their agenda permits. It will then also go to the IBHE in two formats. It goes as the Academic Plan, but the summaries go to the Board of Higher Education staff. The program reviews are the best evidence of that we have in each for every degree program.

Chairperson's Remarks

Senator Holland: Welcome to all new senators. I would like to add my welcome to Paul Borg. On a much sadder note, an excerpt from an email from Angie Bonnell, Milner, to alert us that Patricia Meckstroth passed away on Sunday afternoon. I thought you might appreciate knowing that she was Milner's Senator and also served on Exec in 2001. Angie said she was our Paul Borg. It is tough for many of us because she was so well respected, incredibly smart and just a decent human being. She will be missed.

I have your parking permits. If we don't finish by 9 p.m., you can show this and you will be able to get out of the parking lot for free. You will also note that it is only valid for the scheduled Academic Senate meetings on the back.

Student Body President's Remarks

Sen. Manno: I also want to thank our new academic senators. Last week, SGA passed a resolution to merge our student discount card with a student savings club program, which will serve as an expansion of our program to provide additional businesses, not only locally, but also nationally, as well 100 online businesses to give students discounts. That will be put into effect next year. We also appointed John Olszewski to serve as the CAST academic senator and Ryan Ehmen to serve as the College of Education academic senator. We are still looking over applicants for the College of Arts and Sciences as well as CFA and COB. Also, Watterson South and west campus are also open; so we hope to have all of these positions filled by the end of next year.

Administrators' Remarks

• President Al Bowman

President Bowman: I would also like to thank our new student government leaders and also congratulate our new student trustee, Aaron Von Qualen. The State of Illinois is not about to go bankrupt. The state has a nearly a \$60 billion budget. Unfortunately, we have been spending about \$64 billion every year. You can't do that very long. The state is beginning to pull back and that will unfortunately have an effect on us next year. We have built next year's budget with that in mind.

The governor's first attempt at putting pension on the table is generating a lot of discussion. It's hard to know if anything will happen this spring. Today, Senate Bill 1313 passed which will give CMS the ability to establish health care premiums. It may open the door to some kind of pension legislation.

Another piece of legislation that we are watching in Springfield is a bill that would make it difficult for public universities to hire search firms. We use them sparingly for senior leadership positions. This legislation is really aimed at the University of Illinois, which spends a large amount of money on search firms. This institution spends a modest amount. We are hopeful that we can stop that legislation from moving forward.

• Provost Sheri Everts

Provost Everts: I would also like to welcome the new senators. Thank you for your service and to thank Paul Borg for his many years of service at Illinois State. We have recruited an excellent group of new students for fall 2012. We received more than 12,000 applications for the fall class. The average ACT is 24.2 with a GPA of 3.45. The number of admitted students from underrepresented groups is up 7%. Some good news from Research and Sponsored Programs. Our FY12 awards received thus far are \$300 million ahead of where we were last year. Thank you Senator Kruger and all the faculty whose hard work has led to this significant achievement.

• Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Dietz – Absent

- ***Vice President of Finance and Planning Dan Layzell***

VP Layzell: You all received an email indicating that benefits choice opened on May 1. The closing date for benefits choice has yet to be determined because the state continues to make decisions as to who will be the final set of health insurance providers.

Sen. Kalter: As far as parking, was there any conclusion to the petition last year about the Stevenson lot?

VP Layzell: We have put the discussion about moving toward additional reserved zone parking on hold pending further analysis.

Action Item:

04.13.12.01 Institutional Priorities Report (Sen. Rich/2011-12 Planning and Finance Committee)

Sen. Rich: There was a question that we didn't have an answer for regarding scholarships for recruitment and the question of what are the ISU funded scholarships. Those do include the Presidential Scholarship and the University Scholarship. Both are under consideration for increased stipends. There is an additional one, a new scholarship, the Redbird Scholarship. It is a partial scholarship as well. The ones that mostly emerge are for current students to apply for during their junior/senior year. There is a need for merit scholarships for recruitment. The committee encourages emphasis through Advancement to increase funds for that. No substitution from our current set.

Motion XXXXIII-72: By Sen. Rich to approve the priorities report. The report was unanimously approved.

Information/Action Item:

Executive Committee Meetings and Senate Meetings Schedule

Motion XXXXIII-73: By Sen. Dawson, seconded by Sen. Reifschneider, to move the item to action. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sen. Kalter: The September 3rd Executive Committee meeting should be September 4th since September 3rd is Labor Day.

Motion XXXXIII-74: By Sen. Reifschneider, seconded by Sen. Dawson, to approve the 2012-13 Academic Senate Schedule. The schedule, as revised, was unanimously approved.

Information Item:

04.13.12.06 Academic Impact Fund - Recommendations and Statistical Data (Prof. Cedeño/2011-12 Administrative Affairs Committee)

Sen. Cedeño: You have the Administrative Affairs and Budget Committees recommendations regarding the Academic Impact Fund. The fund is a mechanism that carries in all of the salaries that are left by tenure-track faculty members that retire, resign, etc. All of those go into a big pot of money that essentially the Provost's Office administers and the Academic Senate has over view as to how those funds are administered. Every year, the Provost's Office will give a report to the Administrative Affairs Committee. The report was provided in October so most of the data is from the past year. Based on an analysis provided by Institutional Research, we made the recommendations in front of you. Despite the economy, we are still hiring. We commend the Provost's Office for good management of the fund. The AIF provides partial funding for non-tenure track positions. There has been an increase of non-tenure-track faculty from the previous year because some of the positions that were open but didn't fill. The Provost's Office and the VP of Finance and Planning have provided a merit-based increase to the fund. Attached to the report is a table, which contains data provided by Institutional Research. It summarizes the accounting for tenure-track lines and non-tenure-track lines from 2001 to 2011. The idea is to provide the Provost some numbers to recommend potential decreases or misbalances of what the Senate considers to be a healthy ratio of faculty members and tenure-track lines versus non-tenure

track. There are six recommendations. One and three emphasize getting the Provost's Office on watch for those individual units that are in trouble or have imbalances.

Sen. Ellerton: I think it is helpful to have the tenure trend data because it does open up a question. That assumes a particular baseline. If you use a different baseline depending on the year and the department, that will change over time. That will affect some of the percentages of departments quite noticeably. Has that been discussed and how can that be allowed for in the interpretation of that data?

Prof. Cedeño: The fund was established, I think, in the mid 90's, and in the past there has been data related to comparison with the figures in 1996. I take the responsibility for changing and not keeping that data in the table. The data, however, in terms of TT faculty, in the parentheses in the first column is actually the number for the 1996 year. Next year, I hope we have a student count. That is another factor that affects department needs.

Sen. Kalter: On page 1, third paragraph, where you say there is an accountability report on how the AIF instructional capacity dollar are utilized. Then you say with an emphasis on tracking how NTT needs are met through these funds. I was wondering what that meant.

Prof. Cedeño: The emphasis behind that is that past recommendations by the committee asked the Provost's Office to create a mechanism for departments so that they could provide a better estimate of needs.

Dr. Mardell Wilson: Last year, the committee asked the Provost's Office to gather information about how instructional capacity was used and we asked colleges to do that as a part of their annual budget documents. We found quite a bit of variation. So to develop a better set of metrics for colleges to look for how instructional capacity is utilized, those dollars are transferred to units. Colleges have the autonomy how to best utilize those funds.

Sen. Kalter: You can use instructional capacity to pay people's salaries, but you can also use them for various other things. That statement in the report means that you are actually using them for a non-tenure-track persons or some other item that is within the instructional capacity?

Dr. Wilson: Our allocation of the instructional capacity funds are based on metrics related to credit hour production. If units are utilizing the funds for purposes outside of instruction, it is not in their best interest.

Friendly Amendment: Sen. Kalter: On the last page, number 6, where you say meetings should ideally include explicit support to chairs and directors. I would like for it to say these meetings should be open to the full faculty and staff of the college and include explicit support to the chairs and directors.

Prof. Cedeño: I am not on the Senate anymore, but that amendment is well taken.

Sen. Kalter: The Academic Impact Fund is a way not to have a sliding scale, but to have a fixed point to track what happened to the dollars. I wanted to make sure that we don't have a sliding scale that starts every ten years. If you have a department that has had a deficit for a long time, that is going to erase that deficit. I wouldn't say 1996 is the best point to track from; it is one point to track from. We need to make certain that those reductions in departments are not unplanned reductions.

Prof. Cedeño: I will try to make sure that 1996, which is when the fund began, is included in the next table next year.

Sen. Kalter: A year or two ago, we may have gotten a very simple sheet that had the beginning balance for FY11 of permanent dollars and the additions and subtractions from that and the beginning balance for the following year. We got a sheet with our materials, but it is not as simplified. Can we have that as one of the

continuing things that we get as the Senate? Our job is to oversee the funds, so it is helpful for us to know where we are.

Provost Everts: I think I have that document with me from previous years. We would be happy to do that.

Motion XXXXIII-75: Sen. Horst: Given that this document was worked on by last year's Senate and given that Prof. Cedeño is no longer a part of the Senate, I would like to make a motion to move this to an Action Item. Seconded by Sen. Kalter. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion XXXXIII-76: By Senator O'Rourke, seconded, to approve the recommendations. The Academic Impact Fund Recommendations were unanimously approved.

Communications:

Sen. Horst: On behalf of the School of Music and the Academic Senate and Illinois State University, I want to again thank Paul Borg. He was the School of Music Senator for 25 years; he was the Chair of the Academic Senate; and most importantly, he was the author of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Paul Borg, School of Music: I joined the Senate in 1986 or '87. We used to meet with administrators on one side, the officers on the other and the others in between. Jan Murphy and I served on a committee to the Board of Regents and the acronym was JUAC, the Joint University Advisory Committee. That was the input from the university to the board. The Senate went through a revision when they changed the governance system about 15 years ago. You mentioned the 1996 document. The debate has been very enlightening and you need to remember this. It is important what we do. We are listened to in ways that do not happen at other universities. Over the years, we have preserved that interest, even through some dull times and dull discussions. It is extraordinarily important and I take heart that you are participating and the new senators need to contribute to that during the coming year. You need to share with your constituents what goes on here. Thank you all.

Sen. Holland: We recently approved the final grade appeals policy. We do need to have some volunteers on hand during the summer. Student Government will take care of the students. If we have any faculty who would be interested in hanging out over the summer and debating grade appeals, let me know.

Adjournment

Motion XXXXIII-77: By Sen. Dawson to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.